

The Penkovsky Papers

On Monday, *The Washington Post* will print, as scheduled, the concluding installment of syndicated excerpts from the book *The Penkovsky Papers*. They have aroused a great deal of discussion among American and British experts on Soviet affairs with competent opinion divided as to the form in which the papers were released and as to the extent to which they were wholly in the words of Penkovsky. No one has challenged the essential point that Penkovsky was for a time a spectacularly successful intelligence source of the West.

It would not be conceivable that responsible newspapers in this country would suppress notice of a book of this significance in history or of such consequence in foreign affairs. *The Washington Post*, as one of the newspapers which have published excerpts from the papers, has unsuccessfully solicited criticism and comment on them from the Soviet Embassy and will publish Monday a critique by Victor Zorza of the *Manchester Guardian*, who doubts that the papers originated in the form in which they are presented in the book and who suspects the intrusion of material not originating with Penkovsky. No doubt this will long remain an interesting subject of conjecture and speculation, and *The Washington Post* will try to present opposing views as they appear.

The readers of this newspaper should know that *The Washington Post's* Moscow correspondent was summoned to the Soviet Foreign Ministry at 5 o'clock on Saturday afternoon and told that "we expect that measures will be taken so that no articles and materials of such kind will be published in *The Washington Post* in the future." He was further told that "if publication continues we reserve the right for ourselves to take necessary measures."

What those measures are we cannot know. They will not cause *The Washington Post* to alter its intent regarding this series of articles or any subsequent publication. We refuse to accept the inadmissible suggestion that this newspaper must not print material which the Soviet government may find unacceptable.

It will fulfill its responsibilities as it sees them, whatever "necessary measures" of intimidation and censorship Moscow undertakes to prevent it. Newspapers in the United States, the Soviet government should know by this time, are not to be told by governments, either foreign or domestic, what they "must" print or "must not" print.

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